Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

*295. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of stock of wheat and rice in the godowns of Food Corporation of India;

(b) what is the quantum of wheat of last year's crop in the total stock of wheat and the quantum of wheat of earlier years' crops, out of the same; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a serious problem of rotten wheat in the godowns of Food Corporation of India and some disagreement has arisen between Ministry of Finance and the earstwhile Ministry of Food, over the issue of disposing the same?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) As on 31.10.1999 FCI had 84.94 lakh MTs of rice and 89.38 lakh MTs of wheat in its godowns; (rice includes paddy in terms of rice)

(b) Out of the 89.38 lakh MTs of wheat stocks, 21.90 lakh MTs belong to the last year's crop and the balance 67.48 lakh MTs is from the current year's crop.

(c) No Sir. The wheat stocks with FCI are of good quality and in sound condition and under scientific storage. Only about 25,000 MTs of wheat out of 89.38 lakh MTs (0.28%) has been declared as 'damaged' and is under process of disposal.

Medical Colleges in Meghalaya

*296. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of recognised Medical Colleges in Meghalaya;

(b) the details of criteria laid down for granting recognition to them;

(c) the dates of granting recognition to them; and

(d) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government to open new Medical Colleges in the State during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) to (c) There is no under graduate medical college in the State of Meghalaya at present. However, the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong (NEIGRIHMS) is being set up as a super-speciality referral hospital for the North East Region with post-graduate teaching and research facilities.

(d) Presently, Government has no proposal to open a new medical college in Meghalaya.

Godowns of FCI

*297. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the existing number of Food Corporation of India godowns for storage of foodgrains, state-wise, location-wise and capacity-wise, separately as on 31st October, 1999; and

(b) the State-wise and location-wise details of FCI godowns for the said purpose proposed to be set up in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Plantation Programme by IFFCO in Sultanpur

†*298. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Plantation programme is being conducted by IFFCO in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh;

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.